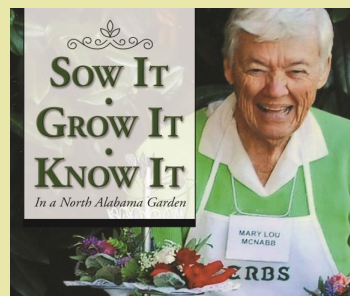




GARDEN THYMES

Master Gardeners of North Alabama, Inc.



[McNabb Releases Gardening Book](#)

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2017 - Quarter 3

New Garden Thymes Editor!

I'm pleased to announce that I have accepted the position as Editor-in-Chief of the *Garden Thymes* newsletter.

Thanks to everyone who submitted an article for the 2017 - Quarter 3 issue of *Garden Thymes* newsletter.

I'm sure there are great stories to tell and photos to share. If your association didn't have an article in this issue, I hope you will submit an article for the Fall edition.

The submission deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication.



Acacia Moore (F'12)

Editor-in-Chief

newsletter@mginfo.org

Like! Us on Facebook

You don't have to be a member of Facebook to view the MGNA Facebook page. If you are a member, remember to Like Us!

www.Facebook.com/MGofNA

Through the Garden Gates: Good Seeds Grow Well

By Carolyn Wade (W'12)

The Huntsville Botanical Garden's Good Seeds Grow Well Program was chosen as one of the six finalist for the Community Foundation of greater Huntsville's [#SummitGivesBack](#) campaign. Six Community Foundation nonprofit partners were selected to submit a video proposing a project - up to \$50,000 - which, if fully funded, would have a great impact on our community.

Our Project, Through the Garden Gates: Good Seeds Grow Well, will extend the Garden's educational reach beyond its gates and into the community, partnering with local elementary schools to provide the education, curriculum, materials, and resources necessary to plan, install, and maintain a learning garden on school campuses. Additionally, field trip experiences and quarterly admission to the Huntsville Botanical Garden will be extended to each student participant.

The three videos with the most votes advanced to the funding phase, along with the Community Foundation's SAIL and Grants to Green Projects. Funding will begin on August 1st. Thanks to everyone who voted for the HBG/Morris project. Because of your due diligence, we won the crowd vote and the HBG is proceed-

ing to the next step, which is fundraising for the new Outdoor Classroom and garden.

Master Gardeners are going to work with 5th graders at Morris again this year on Tuesdays from 12 noon to 1 p.m. We are looking for volunteers who would be interested in joining us. We will start with the students on Tuesday, Sept 5th. For the first semester, we will be meeting in the classroom or outdoor patio area so we also need ideas that don't involve 'planting' per se unless it's in a movable pot.

We will have a brainstorming meeting on Thursday, Aug. 24th at 9:30 a.m. at the Extension Office for anyone interested in working cbwade9@gmail.com and I will add you to our weekly emails. Thanks, and hope to see you on August 24th!



[Outdoor Classroom Continued on page 4](#)

MGNA Annual Picnic

Please join us on Green Mountain Saturday, September 16th, from noon until 3 p.m. Bring a dish to share! Paper products, tableware and soft beverages will be provided.

[Picnic Continued on Page 3](#)

From The President

Well, it's hot and humid and hard to enjoy too much gardening right now but we manage to do what we can. We have had some great programs the last few months. Thanks to everyone who has been a presenter for our meetings. The Workshop Committee under the guidance of Rosie Rymut and Pam Price put on a wonderful workshop on roses this past month.

The presenters were Gigi Bullman, Gail Futoran, Libby Loose and Barbara McFarlan. These ladies sure know their roses! Everyone enjoyed the entire day and came away with much more knowledge about roses. Last month was also the Family Fun Festival at the VBC. Thanks to Eugene Roberts and the Seedlings and Sprouts Committee for a fun day. We had 562 people stop by our booth. We enjoyed making caterpillars out of egg cartons, planting



squash seeds and making seed tapes with the kids. Mary Howe was there to answer questions and Bill Fuller was there to promote composting. We also gave away LOTS of seeds.

Many people learned about us that probably would not have, if it were not for this event.

Our projects are all doing well but there is a constant need for MORE VOLUNTEERS. Remember, when you think someone else will probably do it; that's what the other guy is thinking.

It has been a great year for the DVG. The DVG has harvested 1,500 pounds of produce, to date, for the Madison County Food Bank. Thanks DVG workers - you put in a lot of labor to get that harvest.

Until the next newsletter, stay cool and have a great summer.

*Ann Tippie (W'12)
MGNA President*



GARDEN THYMES

VOL. XXVII, ISSUE 3

Editor-in-Chief
Acacia Moore (F'12)

Contributing Editors
Bill Fuller (W'97)
Jean Lee (W'95)
Lynn Overman (F'15)
Brenda Tapp (W'98)
Carolyn Wade (W'12)

The *Garden Thymes* newsletter is published quarterly: January/February/March, April/May/June, July/August/September and October/November/December. Editorial deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Master Gardeners of North Alabama was incorporated in 1988 and is now a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

The Alabama Master Gardener program is conducted at the county level by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES).

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MGs receive their Advanced Landscape Design certificates. See page 6.

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MGNA Annual Picnic

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MGNA ANNUAL

GREEN MOUNTAIN
PAVILION

Saturday, September 16
12:00 p.m.

Watch for signup email

Drinks, paper goods and utensils

Master Gardeners of Alabama Frog Hollow Field Trip

By Allyson Hofer (W'12)

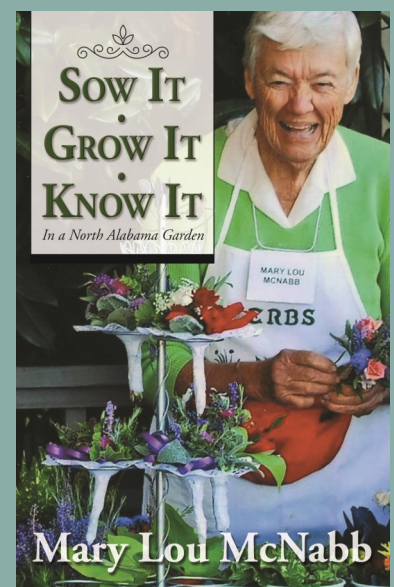
On Monday, April 24th, a group of 11 MG's traveled to DeKalb County near Arab to visit former MG president Theresa Smith's Frog Hollow Nursery and Gift Shop. Theresa had numerous unusual plant specimens, as well as more familiar ones, and was readily available to answer our questions. Naturally, most of us came away with some favorites.

After our sojourn at the Nursery, we journeyed a few miles to a Mexican Restaurant in Arab, Sierra's, where we all enjoyed eating and talking "shop".



Pictured from left to right: Betsy Fletcher, Suzanne Kirkhoff, Carolyn Peters, Penny Osmer, Mary Jane Reumann, Owen Hofer, Allyson Hofer, Elouisa Stokes, Bonnie Gardner and Brenda Swanner.

Our very own Mary Lou McNabb has written her book about gardening in North Alabama. Now you may have heard her story of bringing the Master Gardener program from up north and getting Gary Murray to have A&M University teach us everything we needed in 11 weeks. But did you know that she is also a blueberry farmer with lots of vegetable gardens, perennials, fruit and nut trees? Her book is called *Sow It, Grow It, Know It in a North Alabama Garden*. The book costs \$19.95, and Mary Lou has graciously donated the profits to the Master Gardeners of North Alabama. Pictures in the book are by Bob McNabb. Please contact us at mginfo.org for a copy. You will be amazed at the information about growing here in North Alabama. Mary Lou knows about our soils, and sun/water needs of plants you may wish to grow.



Harvesting for Health

By Renée Thompson

Harvest for Health is Growing and coming to Madison and surrounding counties in April 2018.

The Harvest for Health program continues to Grow. First time gardens are popping up all across Alabama thanks to our Alabama Master Gardeners.

Cancer survivors, who are 65 years or older, are beginning to learn the benefits of gardening through the Harvest for Health program alongside their Master Gardener.

Harvest for Health is a gardening intervention program for cancer survivors through UAB and ACES funded by the National Institute of Health. Through these home gardens, studies have shown promising results due to increased fruit and vegetable intake and increased physical activity.

Getting involved with this project could make a world of difference for you as a Master Gardener and the cancer survivor. A program like Harvest for Health challenges you to grow, to learn more, and in the process to give more. One of the most exciting things I have learned about the Master Gardener community is the discovery that we are a part of something bigger than ourselves.

Cohort 4 will start in February 2018 with the spring garden. It will be in the following counties: **Madison, Marshall, Limestone, Morgan, Lauderdale, Jackson, Dekalb, Cherokee and Etowah.**

This life changing program will continue through August 2021. There will

[H4H Continued on page 8](#)

[Outdoor Classroom Continued from page 1](#)



Now that we won the public voting, the next step is fundraising. The success of our crowdfunding effort depends on OUR activity to bring it to life! The goal is \$40,000 to fund the project which includes the Outdoor Classroom, lesson plans for the teachers AND a resource teacher to assist the teachers in using the Outdoor Classroom for 2 years! All the money raised for Morris – goes to Morris!

How can you help? So glad you asked!

1. Go to the SummitGivesBack.org and click on our project to watch our video and make a donation.
2. Be sure to use the hashtag #SummitGivesBack in any of your social media post so that everyone who visits the SummitGivesBack.org website will see the energy and enthusiasm of our team and want to support our project!
3. E-mail and call your friends and family! Share your link with them so they can participate and support our project.

Intern Class Graduation Winter 2017

By Carolyn Wade (W'12)

On Monday, April 24th, 11 members of the Winter 2017 class graduated and MGNA members hosted a graduation ceremony at the Lamb of God Church of Christ on County Line Road. The Interns posted more than 2000 hours before their graduation and eight of the graduates joined MGNA.



First row, left to right: James Turner, Beverly Kappenman, Dianna Nalley, Karen Kopfinger, Carol Graham, Second row, left to right: Herman Beach, Rhonda Britton (ACES), Cathy Gamble, Julie Wood, Teri McQuinn, Cindy Sisco, and Opal Sturgis. The graduates who were unable to attend were Fayeann Crawford (Madison), Shireen Fletcher (Madison), Jennifer Johnson (Madison), Ruth Rainey (Madison), Beth Simonis (Madison) and Marcy Warnick (Madison). Photo credit: Carolyn Wade.

Master Gardener Profile

“I’m a ‘Hostaholic’ and I don’t want to be cured.” - Kendra Spadoni (W’17)

By Acacia Moore (F’12)

Kendra was born in Coronado, California but grew up in Hatboro, Pennsylvania. She married her First Love, Robert “Bob” Michael Spadoni on April 15, 2004 and they have been married for 13 years. She moved to Athens, AL in June 2004. They live in a 200-year-old log house that came from Spring City, TN which was disassembled and reassembled in Athens, AL in 1987.

She has three boys (men) from her first marriage: SFC Christopher M. Borka, 34; Andrew W. Borka, 33 and Kevin T. Borka, 27. They have 7 dogs (All rescues): Bear 13 years old. Rottweiler/Golden Retriever mix; Einstein 12, Jack Russell/Corgi mix; Lucy 5, Bassett/Pointer mix; Skippy 5, Rat terrier mix; Jo Jo and Betsy (Sisters) 3, Catahoula mixes and Sweet Girl 4, Australian Cattle dog. Her favorite destination was Rome, Italy. It's where she and Bob spent their honeymoon. They hope to go back for their 20th Anniversary in 2024.

Kendra graduated from Penn State November 1979 with a B.S. in Micro-

biology. She was commissioned by her father, Commander William A. LaBarge, Class of '56, Naval Academy graduate. She was a Chemical Officer and served 12 ½ years active and 12 ½ years in the Army Reserves. She was stationed in Germany twice: Kaiserslautern and Stuttgart; and Fort Hood,



Kendra Spadoni (W'17)

- 2017 MGNA Hospitality Chair
- 2015-2016 HSNA Hospitality Chair
- 2014 Senior Hosta Leaf Judge
- 2012 HSNA President
- 2009-2010 HSNA VP
- 2011, 2007-2008 HSNA Membership Chair

Texas. When she left active duty, she moved back home and lived around the corner from her parents in Hatboro, PA for 14 years.

She's retired and a full-time volunteer. She was an Environmental Protection Specialist for the Army Reserves; responsible for 39 Army Reserve Center in Pennsylvania. She retired from the Army Reserves as an LTC in December 2004. Her last assignment was teaching Command and General Staff

College to 13 Delaware National Guard Majors.

She tutored Dyslexic Adults for 3 years at Learn to Read in Athens. She has been the Treasurer for Republican Women of Madison for the past four years.

She graduated from the Master Gardener Course this past Spring 2017 (Winter). Kendra says, “I’m a ‘Hostaholic’ and I don’t want to be cured.” There isn’t a hosta that she doesn’t love. She’s been a member of Hosta Society of North Alabama (HSNA) since April 2005.

Kendra met Susan Webb, VP of the HSNA, at the HSV Botanical Garden Plant sale in the perennial tent in April 2005. The tent was filled with hostas and H.

'Blue Mouse Ears' was the featured hosta being introduced to the gardening world. Susan told Kendra there was an organization of people who loved hostas like she did. Kendra attended her first society meeting and has never left. She is a Senior Hosta Leaf Show Judge pursuing her Master Judge qualifications.

She's a member of MGNA and Morgan County MGNA (MCMGNA).



200-year-old log cabin with a variety of hostas.
Photo by Kendra Spadoni.



Honeymoon trip to Rome, Italy in 2004.
Photo by Kendra Spadoni.



H. 'Whirlwind' hosta.
Photo by Kendra Spadoni.

MG's Receive Their Advanced Landscape Design Certificates

By Suzanne Beckinger (W'12)

On Thursday, June 8th, 11 MG's received their Advanced MG Landscape Design Certificates.



Photo from left to right: Anita Buckley (Morgan Co), Gigi Bullman, Janet Boothe, Ann Vaughn, Max Campbell, Helen Carr, Mary Howe and Cookie Kruvand. Not pictured are Bob Goodwin, Pam Marshall and Candy Trowbridge.

Sue Toole Wins Hosta Grand Award

By Carolyn Wade (W'12)

In June, Sue Toole's 'Island Breeze' Hosta won the Grand Award for container plants at the American Hosta Society National Convention. Sue was shocked and excited.



Congratulations Sue!

Demonstration Vegetable Garden Hard at Work in 2017

If you haven't visited the Demonstration Vegetable Garden this year, you've missed a real treat. The Garden is looking green and healthy and is full of wonderful produce. We have some of the best tasting cucumbers (Sweeter Yet) this side of the Mississippi – you really need to come try one if you haven't already. We harvested over 50 pounds of these sweet little things this week alone.

The Master Gardener Day at the DVG was successful with many tours being led by wonderful volunteers. The day had a little of everything – visits from Tennessee MGs, Mary Lou McNabb selling her new book, and grafted tomatoes and fresh garlic for sale. Many thanks to the tour volunteers, Ask A Master Gardener and pH Testing for supporting the day.

We have harvested a bumper crop of fresh garlic and the blueberries are quickly ripening. The tomatoes, potatoes and beans all look great and the square foot garden is coming right along. The three fig trees are full of figs and the baby rabbit is keeping Tom hopping (mad).

The DVG is looking for volunteers to help at the garden on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings starting around 7 a.m. We laugh a lot and work some as well – but are usually done before the heat of the day settles in. We hope you will consider joining us soon – either to lend a hand with the chores, or just to try a wonderful new cucumber.



Tom Simpson (W'12)
tmshsv@gmail.com



Carolyn Wade (W'12)
cbwade9@gmail.com

There's Always Room for Another Book on the Shelf...

By Gigi Bullman (W'83)

If you grow even one rose, you already know there is no one book that will cover everything you'd like to know. And, if you know me at all, you will know that there is no such thing as having "only one book", so I'm offering three titles for your consideration.

First, there's Ortho All About Roses, the 2007 edition. This book does a great job of covering basic rose culture and the various types of roses, but you should get it for its well-written rose care calendar, detailed by month and zone. All of us need reminders of what to do and when to do it in our gardens, and this book will do the trick.

Second, if you are interested in living garden heirlooms, take a look at Landscaping with Antique Roses by Liz Druitt and G. Michael Shoup. The authors' genuine love for the old roses shines through in this colorful volume, and their Rose Use Chart will help you sort out the best rose for your garden based on size, fragrance, and so on. I promise, after reading this, you will want to grow them all. This book is out of print, but available from third party sellers.

Lastly, my favorite, The Organic Rose Garden by Liz Druitt. It is possible to grow roses organically, even in our climate, and Ms. Druitt will give you to tools to do just that. She covers a wide range of rose types, both older and newer, helpfully including a Quick Reference Chart for Garden Form that will help you define the characteristics you are looking for. Available in print and Kindle versions. A word to the wise – if she says a rose gets really big, believe her (you can ask me why anytime).

You might think of a rose as just another flowering shrub, but one with the unique ability of a long bloom season – some years starting as early as March, possibly continuing until November or December, depending on the weather. When you are able to put homegrown flowers on your Thanksgiving table, I'm telling you, it's a pretty cool feeling!



Garden Apps Educational Workshop

Picture and article by
Suzanne Kirkhuff (W'07)



Rhonda Britton, our Regional Extension Agent, gave an informative workshop on Garden Apps on August 8th. Rhonda gave many examples of excellent apps to use with our

gardening. One I found particularly interesting was the Plant Identification app. With this app you take a picture of the plant in question and the app will identify it for you. Very cool!

Just a few of the apps she showed were SOW-A-Planting Companion, ID Weeds, Tomato Doctor, Tree Doctor, Insect and Organic Gardening, and Water Use Calculator. We learned there are over 2.2 million apps. Who Knew? There are many help-aids.

On September 12th, Rhonda will be presenting another education workshop on Drought/Water Conservation from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the extension office. Information will be sent out shortly to register for this workshop.

MGNA Volunteer Open House

By Ann Tippie (W'12)

Please join us for the MGNA Volunteer Open House on Saturday, October 28th from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Madison County Cooperative Extension Office located at 819 Cook Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35801.

The Open House is for all Master Gardeners and Interns, including the current class. Each committee or project chair will have displays depicting what they do. The tri-fold will be on display. Each committee will have signup materials available at their tables. Refreshments will be available.

If you have any questions, please email Ann Tippie (W'12) at tippieam@gmail.com.

Harvesting for Health Lunch and Learn



present..

LUNCH & LEARN

Harvest for Health

Join us for this informative luncheon about the Harvest for Health research program, offered to cancer survivors by the University of Alabama at Birmingham in partnership with the Alabama Cooperative Extension's Master Gardeners program.

Friday, Aug. 18th
11:30am - 1:00pm

Madison County
Cooperative Extension Office
819 Cook Ave. NW #106
Huntsville, AL 35801

Visit www.komenNCAlabama.org or contact
Shonda Miller at 256-426-8444
to reserve your seat & lunch by
Tuesday, August 15th

Harvesting for Health

[H4H Continued from page 4](#)

be many opportunities for you as a Master Gardener to be involved in a program that benefits both the mentors and the participants.

If you would like to be a part of this wonderful program, please contact Renée Thompson, Outreach Coordinator for Harvest for Health, at 101 Funchess Hall, Auburn, AL 36849; 334-826-1590 or thomprw@auburn.edu

Calendar of Events

July

July 1 HBG Mulch Pile 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Behind CASA Garden on Bob Wallace Ave, Huntsville. Contact George Darling at gd1390210@gmail.com

July 10 MGNA Board of Directors Meeting 12 noon to 2 p.m. Madison County Extension Office, 819 Cook Ave, Huntsville. president@mginfo.org

July 13 MGNA Monthly Meeting. 6 p.m. Speaker: ACES Extension Agent Chris Becker on Tomato Problems Murray Hall, Huntsville Botanical Garden, 4747 Bob Wallace Ave, Huntsville. www.mginfo.org

July 15 HBG Mulch Pile 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Behind CASA Garden on Bob Wallace Ave, Huntsville. Contact George Darling at gd1390210@gmail.com

August

August 7 MGNA Board of Directors Meeting 12 noon to 2 p.m. Madison County Extension Office, 819 Cook Ave, Huntsville. president@mginfo.org

August 8 Garden Apps Workshop by Regional Extension Agent Rhonda Britton. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Madison County Extension Office, 819 Cook Ave, Huntsville. www.mginfo.org

August 10 MGNA Monthly Meeting. 6 p.m. Speaker: HBG's Vernon Bush on propagating Azaleas. Murray Hall, Huntsville Botanical Garden, 4747 Bob Wallace Ave, Huntsville. www.mginfo.org

September

September 12 Water Conservation Workshop by Regional Extension Agent Rhonda Britton. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Madison County Extension Office, 819 Cook Ave, Huntsville. www.mginfo.org

September 16 MGNA Annual Picnic on Green Mountain. Time 12 noon to 3 p.m. www.mginfo.org

September 30 – October 1 Bus Trip to Atlanta Gardens with overnight stay. Contact Sandra Pape at sandrapape@gmail.com

More information and registration for workshops at www.mginfo.org.

DEADLINE FOR FALL ISSUE IS SEPTEMBER 15, 2017



Master Gardeners of North Alabama
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
819 Cook Ave.
Huntsville, AL 35801

